



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240



MAR 21 2008

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman, Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of March 20, 2008, requesting Secretary Kempthorne's attendance before the Committee on Environment and Public Works to discuss the proposal to list the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

I understand Secretary Kempthorne called you on March 17, 2008, and expressed his commitment to testify before the Committee on the polar bear proposal once a decision is made on the issue. I also understand the Secretary committed to calling you on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, with an update on the progress towards a decision.

In the meantime, the Secretary has directed Matt Eames, Director of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, to contact your Chief of Staff to determine a mutually agreeable date for a hearing on this important matter once a decision is made.

Sincerely,

Lyle Laverty  
Assistant Secretary for Fish,  
and Wildlife and Parks